

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned Application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (cancelled).

Claim 2 (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 4, wherein the polymeric binder is a selected acrylic, silicone, butadiene or polyurethane resin, the active ingredient and the resin being distributed in a non-aqueous composition with which the article is applied or impregnated.

Claim 3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (currently amended) A method of treating, or partially or wholly[[,]] impregnating, a textile and/or footwear article to be worn on, or associated with, a user's foot with an active deodorizing ingredient which comprises elemental sulphur, or a composition capable of liberating elemental sulphur, the method including the steps of: treating or impregnating the article with a selected composition having, in addition to the active ingredient, a polymeric binder for providing stable adherence of the

active_ingredient to the article and gradual release therefrom over time, the polymeric binder being a selected acrylic, silicone, butadiene or polyurethane resin, and the active ingredient and resin being distributed in an aqueous bath in which the article is immersed, wherein the active ingredient has a concentration in the aqueous bath between about 0.3 g/l and about 1.0 g/l, the resin is a selected silicon resin having a concentration between about 10 g/l and about 20 g/l, and the aqueous bath further comprises a selected cationic surfactant and a selected softener at concentrations between about 10 g/l and about 20 g/l, and about 2 g/l and about 5 g/l, respectively.

Claim 5 (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 4, wherein the aqueous bath is brought to a temperature of at least about 40°C.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 4, wherein the active ingredient has a concentration between about 5 g/l and about 10 g/l and is emulsified with a non-ionic surfactant, the resin being a selected emulsified acrylic resin and having a concentration between about 3 g/l and about 5 g/l, the bath, in the case of a wool-based article, having a pH at least slightly acidic using acetic acid or, in the case of an article with a cellulose base, a relatively neutral pH.

Claim 7 (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 4, wherein the textile articles, subsequent to immersion in the bath, is wrung and dried at a temperature of at least about 150°C in order to polymerize the acrylic resin.

Claim 8 (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 4, wherein the polymeric binder is a selected adhesive utilized for assembling a shoe or a part thereof.

Claim 9 (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 4, wherein the active ingredient is a selected wettable micronized sulphur.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A composition for partially or integrally treating a textile and/or footwear article to be worn on, or associated with, a user's foot, the composition having an active deodorizing ingredient which comprises elemental sulphur or a mixture capable of liberating elemental sulphur, wherein the article comprises, in addition to the active ingredient, a selected polymeric binder for providing stable adherence of the active ingredient to the article and gradual release therefrom over time, wherein the polymeric binder is a selected acrylic, silicone, butadiene or polyurethane resin, the active ingredient and the resin being distributed in an aqueous bath in which the article is immersed, and the active ingredient has a concentration between about 0.3 g/l and about 1.0 g/l, the resin being a selected silicon resin and having a concentration between about 10 g/l and about 20 g/l, the aqueous bath further comprising a selected cationic surfactant and a selected softener having concentrations of between about 10 g/l and about 20 g/l, and about 2 g/l and about 5 g/l, respectively.

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (currently amended) A composition for partially or integrally treating a textile and/or article to be worn on, or associated with, a user's foot, the composition having an active deodorizing ingredient that includes elemental sulphur or a mixture capable of liberating elemental sulphur, wherein the composition comprises, in addition to the active ingredient, a selected polymeric binder for providing stable adherence of the active ingredient ~~on~~ to the article and gradual release therefrom over time, wherein the polymeric binder is a selected acrylic, silicone, butadiene or polyurethane resin, the active ingredient and the resin being distributed in an aqueous bath in which the article is immersed, and the active ingredient has a concentration between about 5 g/l and about 10 g/l and is emulsified with a selected non-ionic surfactant, the resin being a selected emulsified acrylic resin and having a concentration between about 3 g/l and about 5 g/l, the bath, in the case of a wool-based article, having a pH at least slightly acidic using acetic acid or, in the case of an article with a cellulose base, a relatively neutral pH.

Claim 14 (previously presented) The composition set forth in claim 10, wherein the active ingredient is a selected wettable micronized sulphur.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A textile and/or footwear article integrally or partially impregnated or treated with a composition having an active deodorizing

ingredient which comprises elemental sulphur or a mixture capable of liberating elemental sulphur, wherein the article is treated or impregnated with such composition, the composition comprising, in addition to the active ingredient, a selected polymeric binder for providing stable adherence of the active ingredient to the article and gradual release therefrom over time, the polymeric binder being a selected acrylic, silicone, butadiene or polyurethane resin, and the active ingredient and resin being distributed in an aqueous bath in which the article is immersed, wherein the active ingredient has a concentration in the aqueous bath between about 0.3 g/l and about 1.0 g/l, the resin is a selected silicon resin and having a concentration between about 10 g/l and about 20 g/l, and the aqueous bath further comprises a selected cationic surfactant and a selected softener at concentrations between about 10 g/l and about 20 g/l, and about 2 g/l and about 5 g/l, respectively.